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Approved For Release 2006/03/17 : CIA-RDP82-00457R008200780003-7
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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AMMUNITION DEPOT at Hohenleipisch

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[Handwritten signature]

DATE PREPARED 13 June 1951

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CASES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

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REMARKS

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1. At the end of March 1951, it was ascertained that six of the bunkers situated along the west side of the ammunition depot at Hohenleipisch (N 52/A 03) were used for the storage of ammunition and the seventh, farther to the south, contained powder. The ninth, or southernmost, bunker had been converted into a laboratory.

2. In mid-March, it was learned that fixed ammunition was finished, and powder and explosives were produced at the Hohenleipisch ammunition depot. Almost all required material was delivered from the U.S.S.R. Most of the material was cartridge cases, which came from Leningrad, Voroshilovgrad, Volganesh, Ufa and Stalinsk. The cartridge cases were cleaned, filled and fitted with projectiles and fuses. The ammunition finished at the depot included 152-mm, 105-mm, 76.2-mm and 20-mm shells and 120-mm and 20-mm mortar shells, the latter are called spade-mortar shells (1). Upon completion, most of the shells were shipped out, and no large amounts of them were stockpiled at the depot. About 50 percent of the powder and explosives needed were produced at the depot, and the remaining 50 percent were delivered from the U.S.S.R. In addition to the aforementioned ammunition, rifle and submachine gun ammunition was finished at the depot. Only six earth bunkers were available for the storage of shells and fixed ammunition, and the remaining bunkers were used as work rooms.

3. The dispatching or receiving stations of the railroad cars carrying the ammunition were only occasionally determined, [REDACTED]

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2) Destinations of shipments of finished ammunition, which were determined prior to mid-May 1951, included the troop training grounds of Zeithain and Koenigsbrueck, installations on: Planitz Strasse and Stollbergerstrasse in Chemnitz-Ubersdorf; Freiberg; Torgau; Grossenhain; Pirna; and -eissen. (3)

4. Rail shipments arriving at the depot between 22 March and 19 May 1951 included:

Date	Shipment
22 March	4 carloads of 151-mm and 105-mm cartridges, allegedly from Leningrad

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Class. Changed To: TS
Auth: HR 76-2
Date: 11 AUG 1978

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Shipment</u>
3 April	2 carloads of 105-mm and 76.2-mm cartridges, allegedly from Volganesh
4 April	1 carload of 122-mm mortar shells, allegedly from Voroshilovgrad
7 April	1 carload of 40x10x25-cm boxes containing fuses for artillery ammunition, allegedly from Stalinsk
15 May	1 carload of explosives from the U.S.S.R.
17 May	2 carloads of 151-mm and 105-mm cartridges from Stalinsk
18 May	1 carload of infantry cartridges and 1 carload of 76.2-mm cartridges from Voroshilovgrad
19 May	1 carload of empty 122-mm mortar shells from Leningrad.

5. Shipments of ammunition leaving the depot by road and rail between 4 January and 19 May included:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Shipment</u>	
4 and 5 January	4 truckloads of AA shells, allegedly 105-mm shells of German stocks, probably dispatched to Zeithain	
3 and 4 February	1 boxcarload of 20-mm shells, allegedly for Freiberg	
7 and 8 February	2 boxcarloads of 75-mm AT shells, for an unidentified destination	25X1C
22 February	Ammunition on trucks [redacted] driven by soldiers with black-bordered blue epaulets.	
27 March	2 truckloads of infantry ammunition, for a unit in Meissen	
30 and 31 March	2 carloads of 151-mm shells, allegedly for Koenigsbrueck	
14 May	3 carloads of infantry ammunition and 105-mm and 76.2-mm shells for Camp Zeithain	25X1C
15 May	infantry ammunition and 76.2-mm AT shells on trucks [redacted]	25X1C
17 May	2 carloads of 76.2-mm AT shells, 105-mm artillery shells and 122-mm mortar shells, for Chemnitz-Ebersdorf	
19 May	1 carload of 151-mm shells and 1 carload of infantry ammunition packed in boxes, for Koenigsbrueck.	

6. Officers on the staff of the ammunition depot in mid-January included Major Lavrenski (fnu), depot commandant; Captain Zavalnikov (fnu), deputy commandant; Lieutenant Colonel Kovershnikov (fnu), chief supply officer; and Captain Kasparov (fnu), security officer. At the end of March, it was learned that the two infantry companies guarding the ammunition depot were commanded by Captain Gavrilov (fnu). Company commanders were Captain Kusokov (fnu), and Senior Lieutenant Petrov (fnu). (4) In mid-May, it was learned that an unidentified lieutenant colonel succeeded Major Lavrenski as depot commandant at the end of April. Vehicles at the motor pool of the ammunition depot included truck [redacted] (5)

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7. On the evening of 5 April, a unit from the depot, 40 to 50 men conducted a night exercise in an area 1,200 to 1,500 meters northwest of the ammunition depot. The unit was supported by 2 JS tanks and 4 small armored scout cars with rubber tires. The troops were equipped with small arms and explosives, and practiced sneaking up toward moving and standing armored vehicles and attaching

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AT mines and concentrated charges to them. The practice was witnessed by four officers of undetermined rank from a passenger car.

8. Between 3 and 7 April, 2 JS and 4 T-34 tanks were noticed in the depot area. A commission of eight Soviet officers inspected the depot on 11 April. The officers allegedly came from Grima. (6) Between 16 and 19 May, security measures at the depot were considerably intensified, inasmuch as German workmen were subject to body check, and numerous additional sentries and patrols, among them German SSD personnel wearing civilian clothes, were employed. The SSD men checked the identity cards of civilians in the environs of the depot. Security measures were reduced to normal on 19 May.
9. Between January and mid-May 1951, it was frequently observed, that, during the evening hours, a signal lamp, set up on a fire watchtower south of the ammunition depot, transmitted in a northwesterly direction, and a signal apparatus at Loemwitz airfield responded. (7)

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[Redacted] Comments.

- (1) The 105-mm shells may have been for former German guns. The so-called spade-mortar shells, of which the smallest caliber is 50-mm, are no longer used. The ammunition mentioned in the present report probably were 20-mm rifle grenades.
- (2) Dobrilugk-Kirchhain is the nearest railroad junction, and is situated north of the Hohenleipisch ammunition depot.
- (3) Other destinations for shipments of ammunition were Roedersau, Pinow, Jueterbog, Altengrabow, Dammowalde, Wulkow, Wildpark and Toepchin. [Redacted]
- (4) The officers are reported for the first time.



- (5) The commission may have consisted of officers of the Hq 1st Gds Lecz Div. 25X1
- (7) The report confirms the large Soviet ammunition depot in the former German Air Force installation in the woods north of Hohenleipisch until mid-May 1951. [Redacted] 25X1



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